

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 54-73 and 85-105 are pending. By this Amendment, the specification and claims 54 and 66 are amended, claim 54 is canceled, and new claims 85-105 are added.

Applicants appreciate the indication in the Office Action that claims 67-73 are allowed and that claims 54-66 define patentable subject matter if placed into independent form. By this Amendment, even though the Applicants do not agree with the rejection of claim 53, dependent claims 54 and 66 have been amended to include the language of original claim 53 (canceled), and are therefore in condition for allowance. Claim 54 does not include the "substantially rigid" phrase from claim 53, for increased scope of coverage, but if the Examiner would like to reintroduce this term, she is invited to contact the undersigned.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended by Examiner Mitchell to Applicants' representative on July 12, 2007 during which the above amendments were discussed.

Furthermore, new claims 85-105 are presented for the Examiner's consideration.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all the claims are patentable and that the entire application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance, she is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: /Paul T. Bowen/
Paul T. Bowen
Reg. No. 38,009

PTB:jck

901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100